IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 10, as follows.

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A vibration type drive unit comprising:

a vibration element consisting of an elastic member to which an electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed;

a moving element which is in contact with a surface of said vibration element;

a supporting member which penetrates inside of said vibration element to support the vibration element;

a fitting member which fits into the supporting member to fix the vibration element to the supporting member,

wherein said vibration element is in contact with said moving element at a surface of said ~~moving~~ vibration element opposite to a surface of said ~~moving~~ vibration element to which the electro-mechanical conversion element is fixed,

a projection portion is formed on the surface of said vibration element with which said moving element is in contact, and

the projection portion faces an inner diameter portion of said moving element, and generates, when an alternating signal is applied onto the electro-mechanical energy conversion element, a bending vibration of which a displacement direction is different from that generated on the surface of the vibration element with which said moving element is in contact, and

wherein the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is disposed around the fitting member.

11. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 10, wherein the projection portion of said vibration element generates a bending vibration different from that generated on the surface of said vibration element, with which the moving element is in contact, in the displacement directions and orders thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 10, wherein the projection portion of said vibration element is projected in a direction perpendicular to the surface to which the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed.

13. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 10, wherein said vibration element is formed by fixing the elastic member to which the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed to a second elastic member forming the projection portion.

14. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 13, wherein the elastic member to which the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed to the second elastic member forms the projection portion by a support member penetrating through inner portions of the elastic member and the second elastic member respectively.

15. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 14, wherein said moving element rotates about the support member.

16. (Previously Presented) A vibration type drive unit according to claim 10, wherein, when the alternating signal is applied onto the electro-mechanical energy conversion element, said vibration element:

generates on the surface contacting with the moving element a plurality of first bending vibrations each of which displaces in a direction perpendicular to the surface to which the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed, and

generates on the projection to the surface to which second bending vibrations each of which order is different from those of the first bending vibrations and each of which displaces in a direction parallel to the surface to which the electro-mechanical energy conversion element is fixed.